

CRT Meeting Notes
April 24, 2017
Library Programs for School Readiness

Early Learning in Libraries

- Growing Young Minds - <https://www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/GrowingYoungMinds.pdf>
 - 2013 IMLS report
 - Overview of the importance of early learning programs and what has been successful
 - Cites current research
 - Gives recommendations for action

Early Learning in RI

- RI Reads - <https://www.rireads.org/>
 - Governor's initiative (based on the Campaign for Grade Level Reading) that seeks to double the number of RI 3rd graders reading at grade level by 2025
 - Will address:
 - School readiness
 - Summer learning
 - Chronic school absence
 - Learning to read
- RI Early Learning Standards - <http://rields.com/>
 - Revised in 2013
 - Has accompanying Fun Family Activities in English - http://rields.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/RIELDS_FFC_web.pdf and Spanish - http://rields.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/RIELDS_FFC_span_web.pdf
- Statewide Kindergarten Entry Assessment - <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/EarlyChildhoodAssessment.aspx>
 - RI is currently piloting a kindergarten entry assessment program under the recommendation of the RI Early Learning Council.
- RI Early Learning Council - <http://www.earlylearningri.org/>
- RI Children's Cabinet - <http://www.kids.ri.gov/>
- RI Kids Count - <http://www.rikidscount.org/>

School Readiness Programs/Resources in RI Libraries

- Providence Public Library
 - Family Literacy Bags - <http://www.provlib.org/family-literacy-bags>
 - Created in partnership with RIDE and a Race to the Top grant
 - Based on the 9 learning domains outlined in the RI Early Learning Standards
 - 27 bags – one for each age group in each of the 9 learning domains
 - Designed for parents
 - Each kit contains the Fun Family Activity Cards, 3-4 books for parents to share with their child, a book for the parent to use as a resource, and an activity
 - Books were vetted with RIDE for availability in English & Spanish
 - Encourages parents that what they're already doing helps with development

- No fines for late, damaged, or missing items. Patrons are only charged if the kit isn't returned
 - LARKs - <http://www.provlib.org/lark-kits-learning-and-reading-kits>
 - Thematic Learning and Reading Kits containing books, games, music, manipulatives, etc.
 - Spanish/English bilingual kits available
 - Geared for teachers and home child care providers
 - Teachers/providers must contact Anne K. to request kits
 - Cradle to Crayons Storytime - <http://www.provlib.org/news/ppl-cradle-crayons-program>
 - Gives out early lit tips on cut out crayons. Each cut out is hole punch and collected on a ring each week
 - See similar activity at <http://www.talesforhetiny.com/tuesday-toolbox-rhyme-cards/>
- Providence Community Library – see attached handouts for more info
 - Ready for K! IMLS grant funded program
 - 9 consecutive weeks
 - Designed for parent/caregiver & child
 - Participants are expected to attend all 9 sessions and pre-reg
 - Intentionally run during “preschool time” to reach kids who weren't already in a pre-k program
 - Partnered with the school dept. to market program to families registering for kindergarten
 - The initial grant funded bilingual literacy aids at all sessions
 - It cost \$17,000 to purchase learning center materials for 9 locations (see Learning Center Materials handout)
 - This summer the program will take place in 5 school parking lots with the mobile library – public schools will share the literacy assessment of participating kids
- South Kingstown
 - Preschool explorers – see attached handout for more info
 - Run as pre-k science explorers, art explorers, etc.
 - Pre-reg. recommended, drop-ins welcome
 - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
 - Tracking is done on paper to encourage kids “tracking” their own reading by coloring/marketing squares – sheets have tracking on one side early lit. tips on the other
 - Kids get small prizes for meeting goals and get a book at the end
 - Newport & Cumberland are looking to launch 1000 Books program – Cumberland will use ReadSquared interface

Resources

- *Counting Down to Kindergarten: A Complete Guide to Creating a School Readiness Program for Your Community* by R. Lynn Baker
 - Gives a 6 week schedule of lesson plans, 6 month family activity calendar, ideas for partnerships, and examples of successful library programs
 - Has a companion blog - <http://www.countingdowntokindergarten.com>
 - Blog explains the 5 domains of school readiness
 - Also features activities broken down by readiness skill and age group
- Vroom - <http://www.joinvroom.org/>

- App and web site for parents
- Sends brain building activities and tips to registered users
- A Bezos Family Foundation initiative (also supports Mind in the Making) - <http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/programs>
- Mind in the Making – www.mindinthemaking.org
 - Book by Ellen Galinsky
 - Research on executive function skills, child development, and early learning
 - Explains how these life skills are essential to success and how adults can build them
- Purchasing materials
 - Lakshore Learning - <http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/>
 - Discount School Supply - <http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/>

Helpful Tips

- Can schedule kindergarten/developmental screenings at the library before/after storytimes – contact local school department
- Check the Kids Count Factbook to see how many kids are enrolled in early learning programs in your town - <http://www.rikidscount.org/DataPublications/RIKidsCountFactbook.aspx#753191-education>
- Anyone can apply to be a professional development provider through RIAEYC - <http://www.riaeyc.org/>